

PUBLIC HEARING TO BE CONDUCTED ON PROPOSED REVISIONS TO TITLE 11, HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE RULES, CHAPTER 20 AND REVISED PLANS FOR CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Health (DOH) will be holding a public hearing to consider proposed revisions to the Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 20, "Rules Related to Potable Water Systems." Due to budgetary constraints, only one public hearing will be conducted on Tuesday, August 17, 1999 at 5:00 p.m. at the Department of Health Board Room, 1250 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, Hawaii. Written testimony will also be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 18, 1999 at the Safe Drinking Water Branch Office in Honolulu. Please note that the rule changes were previously discussed during the statewide capacity development/operator certification meetings held on May 25 (Honolulu), May 26 (Wailuku), May 27 (Lihue), and June 1, 1999 (Kona and Hilo).

The proposed revisions to Chapter 20 are as follows:

1. Add new requirements for all proposed new community public water systems and new non-transient non-community public water systems to ensure that the water system demonstrates that it has adequate technical, financial, and managerial capacity with respect to state primacy drinking water regulations in effect or likely to be in effect, on the date of commencement of operations. This change is intended to make Hawaii law at least as stringent as the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments' requirements;
2. Change the requirements for the use of new sources of raw water for public water systems, and for new and modified public water systems, including deadlines for approvals as required by HRS 91-13.5;
3. Revise the definition of a public water system to be consistent with Hawaii Revised Statutes and the federal Safe Drinking Water Act;
4. Require that additives (chemical, materials, or products) used by a public water system be certified as meeting the nationally and internationally recognized American National Standard Institute/National Sanitation Foundation Standards 60 and 61, Drinking Water System Components - Health Effects and Drinking Water System Components - Health Effects, respectively, and provide for the use of uncertified chemicals, materials, or products under certain conditions;
5. Make minor revisions to the Phase V rule which have been required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to make Hawaii law at least as stringent as federal law;
6. Incorporate federal requirements for consumer confidence reports; and
7. Update certain legal references.

The changes may lead to increased fees or costs for owners of proposed new or modified public water systems and consumers served by these systems.

Persons desiring to speak are asked to submit two copies of their testimony before or at the hearing. Written testimony will also be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on August 18, 1999 at the Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB) Oahu address noted below.

Copies of the proposed rules and documents explaining the proposed changes are available for review at the following locations:

- OAHU: SDWB, 919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 308, Honolulu, HI 96814-4920, phone 586-4258, contact Stuart Yamada.
- KAUAI: DOH, District Health Office, 3040 Umi Street, Lihue, 96766, phone: 241-3323, contact Harold Eichelberger.
- MAUI: DOH, District Health Office, 54 High Street, Wailuku, 96793, phone: 984-8234, contact Gordon Muraoka.
- HAWAII: DOH, Environmental Health Facility, 1582 Kamehameha Ave., Hilo, 96720, phone 933-0401, contact Glenn Tomori.
- MOLOKAI: DOH, Kaunakakai Civic Center, 65 Makaena Pl., Kaunakakai, 96748, phone: 533-3208.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

On May 25 (Honolulu), May 26 (Wailuku), May 27 (Lihue), and June 1, 1999 (Kona and Hilo) the SDWB conducted statewide public information meetings to discuss its plans for capacity development (as required by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments). At the meetings the SDWB explained its proposed revision of Chapter 20 related to capacity development requirements and how it would implement the capacity development program to meet EPA requirement, including the preparation of its plans for existing public water systems ("Capacity Development Strategic Plan for Existing Public Water Systems") and for new community and non-transient non-community water systems ("New Community and New Nontransient Noncommunity Water System Start-up Requirements").

The SDWB is in the process of finalizing its capacity development plans for submittal to the EPA for approval. The last remaining step before the plans are submitted to EPA is to provide the revised plans for final review after the comments received are incorporated.

In addition to incorporating the comments received, the SDWB has made editorial changes and a change in determining how inadequate capacity will be corrected. In the original proposal, water systems would have been required to submit a get-well plan. The change now proposes that the water system, with the participation of SDWB personnel, identify the underlying causes for the inadequate capacity. The water system's get-well plan would then address the corrections of the causes identified by the review.

Contact Stuart Yamada or Donald Yasutake at 586-4258 if you have any questions regarding the capacity development plans. The deadline for submitting comments on the capacity development plans is July 30, 1999. Please forward your comments by FAX (808) 586-4370, or by mail to: Safe Drinking Water Branch, 919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 308, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT TRAINING SCHEDULED FOR FALL 1999

The Rural Community Assistance Corporation will be offering workshops on Hawai'i and Moloka'i in September 1999 covering water distribution system operator certification topics. The dates, times, and locations of these training workshops will be announced. For more information about these workshops, please contact:

Dale Burton
Rural Water Assistance Corporation
234 Waianuenue Avenue, Suite 218
Hilo, HI 96720

Telephone: (808) 935-8404
Fax: (808) 969-7727
E-mail: dburton@rcac

The water treatment plant and distribution system operator training course sponsored by the Safe Drinking Water Branch will be postponed until distribution system operator certification issues are clarified. This course will now probably begin in January 2000.

The Rural Community Assistance Corporation will be offering utility management training workshops for managers and supervisors who oversee the operation of water systems during October or November, 1999. The utility management workshop was developed by the California State University at Sacramento. The dates, times, and locations for the utility management workshops will be announced in the near future.

AWWA-Hawaii TO CONDUCT DISINFECTION TRAINING WORKSHOP

The Hawai'i Section AWWA Workshop on Disinfection Basics: A Practical Guide to Chlorination/Chloramination will be held on August 26 and 27, 1999 at the Aston Keahou Beach Resort, Keahou, Kona, Hawaii.

Contact Keith Uemura at (808) 531-1676 for more information or to register for the workshop.

NEW EPA REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF OPERATORS TO AFFECT ALL PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS

The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 directed the EPA, in cooperation with the States, to publish guidelines in the Federal Register specifying minimum standards for the certification and recertification of operators of community and nontransient noncommunity public water systems.

The final "Guidelines for the Certification and Recertification of the Operators of Community and Noncommunity Public Water Systems" was published by the EPA in the Friday, February 5, 1999 Federal Register.

There is an August 2000 deadline for States to submit their operator certification program to EPA for review and approval. The date by which approved State operator certification programs must be adopted and implemented is February 2001. Because we will be following the public hearing process and will be sending each water system a copy of Hawaii's revised certification rules for comments before the public hearing date, our goal is still to adopt and implement the revised certification rule by August 2000 or soon thereafter.

Hawaii currently has a certification rule adopted by the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Water Treatment Plants (Board) through the Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB), Environmental Management Division, State Department of Health. The current rule is:

Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), Title 11, Department of Health, Chapter 25, "Rules related to Certification of Operating Personnel in Water Treatment Plants", August 25, 1997.

The title of the rule will be revised to read, "Rules Relating to the Certification of Operators in Public Water Systems." The significance of the change in title is as follows:

1. The Board/SDWB will continue to certify water treatment plant (WTP) operators operating WTPs treating surface water or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GWUDI).
2. The Board/SDWB will now have to certify distribution system (DS) operators.
3. The Board/SDWB will now also have to certify WTP operators treating groundwater sources (such as deep wells, shafts, and tunnels) or any source waters other than surface water or GWUDI that require a WTP to remove a primary or secondary contaminant.

EPA has not yet developed all the policies regarding the new operator certification requirements. However, the SDWB will provide you with the information currently available. The SDWB has prepared information on how it proposes to respond to EPA ("Proposed Measures to Comply with EPA's Guidelines on Operator Certification," and information for Water Purveyors and Operators on the proposed program ("Hawaii's Proposed Operator Certification Program for Water Purveyors and Operators").

To obtain copies of the above-mentioned information or to find out more about the proposed changes to the operator certification program, please contact Larry Whang at (808) 586-4258.

1999 ANNUAL OPERATOR CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS

The annual operator certification examination will be conducted on the Big Island, Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai on September 14, 1999.

Contact Larry Whang of the Safe Drinking Water Branch at (808) 586-4258 for more information on times and locations or to find out how to register for future certification examinations.

The Water Spot is published by the Safe Drinking Water Branch, Environmental Management Division of the Hawai'i State Department of Health and is distributed to water purveyors, water system operators, staff, consultants, and other interested parties.

The Water Spot may also be viewed on the Safe Drinking Water Branch's web site at:

<http://www.hawaii.gov/health/eh/sdwb>

*Please send your
suggestions, ideas
or comments to:*

THE WATER SPOT NEWSLETTER
Safe Drinking Water Branch
State Department of Health
919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

OR Fax us at (808) 586-4370, Attn: "THE WATER SPOT"

SDWB WEB SITE:

<http://www.hawaii.gov/health/eh/sdwb>

HISWAP WEB SITE:

<http://www.aloha.net/~will/hiswap.html>



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